

Observations of Comet a 1888 (Sawerthal), in February and March, made at Launceston, Tasmania. Lat. S. $41^{\circ} 26' 1''$. Long. E. $9^h 48^m 31^s$. By A. B. Biggs.

(Communicated by H. H. Turner.)

February 25.—L.M.T. $4^h 52^m 15^s$ A.M.

Comet from Star (?) 8221 Lacaille. (Comet S.P.)

Greenwich M.T.	Diff. R.A.	Diff. N.P.D.	No. of Meas.	Remarks.
h m s	m s	' "		
Feb. 24 7 3 42	-0 8'08	+1 23'2	3	Star uncertain.* Only one measure for position, advancing daylight and haze preventing verification. Nucleus bright, well-defined, and surrounded with considerable coma. Brightness about = comparison star.

March 8.—L.M.T. $4^h 37^m 7^s$ A.M.

Comet from Star 8546 Lacaille. (Comet N.F.)

h m s	m s	' "		
Mar. 7 6 48 36	+1 22'12	-8 49'8	4	Nucleus sharply defined. Less coma about head. Tail more tapering towards the head. Brightness about = comparison star.

March 11.—L.M.T. $5^h 21^m 55^s$ A.M.

Comet from Star (?) 8566 Lacaille. (Comet N.F.)

h m s	m s	' "		
Mar. 10 7 19 14	+(9)* 11	missed		* Minutes uncertain—probably 9 in both cases.
7 33 24	(8)* 14'5	-6 03'7	1	

March 16.—L.M.T. $5^h 18^m 46^s$ A.M.

Comet from Star 30 Capri. (Comet S.P.)

h m s	m s	' "		
Mar. 15 1 30 15	-3 40'25	+7 47"	1	Brightness about = comparison star.

March 18.—L.M.T. $5^h 4^m 24^s$ A.M.

Comet from Star 29 Capri. (Comet S.F.)

h m s	m s	' "		
Mar. 17 7 15 53	+5 02'5	+2 39'03	4	All good measures. Brightness—Comet L star.

* Much the brightest star in a wide field.

General Remarks.—On other dates circle readings only have been taken for position, but as the telescope has worked somewhat out of adjustment, these are of little value. This has rendered some of the star identifications uncertain.

No reductions have been made in the above measures for refraction, &c. This would be only for the small difference in declination, the telescope being fixed in R.A. for each observation.

In all cases the *brightest* available star has been used.

Telescope, $8\frac{1}{2}$ -inch reflector.

Further observations prevented by a succession of cloudy mornings.

Launceston:

1888, *March 24.*

Sextant Observations of Comet a 1888, extracted from the Meteorological Log, No. 7120, kept on board the barque 'Atlantic.' By Captain R. Belding.

(Communicated by Captain H. Toynbee.)

1888, *March 10*, 4 A.M., Lat. $22^{\circ} 17'$ S., Long. $26^{\circ} 45'$ W.—Angular distance from the comet's nucleus

to α Centauri $68^{\circ} 43'$. G.M.T. $6^h 56^m 24^s$;
to Antares $58^{\circ} 51'$. G.M.T. $7^h 2^m 24^s$.

March 11, 4 A.M., Lat. $21^{\circ} 40'$ S., Long. $27^{\circ} 9'$ W.—Angular distance from the comet's nucleus

to α Centauri $70^{\circ} 25'$. G.M.T. $6^h 8^m 15^s$;
to Antares $59^{\circ} 56'$. G.M.T. $6^h 3^m 25^s$;
to Altair $37^{\circ} 39'$.

The comet appeared to be brighter this morning, and bearing about E. by S. $\frac{1}{2}$ S. (true.)

March 12, 4 A.M., Lat. $20^{\circ} 57'$ S., Long. $27^{\circ} 5'$ W.—Comet has a larger and brighter appearance. Angular distance from comet's nucleus

to Antares $61^{\circ} 11'$. G.M.T. $6^h 42^m 30^s$;
to α Centauri $72^{\circ} 12'$. G.M.T. $6^h 48^m 10^s$;
to Altair $36^{\circ} 42'$. G.M.T. $6^h 55^m 30^s$.

March 14, 4 A.M., Lat. $19^{\circ} 55'$ S., Long. $27^{\circ} 5'$ W.—Comet seen again. The tail appears to be curving more to the S.W. Angular distance from comet's nucleus

to Antares $63^{\circ} 27'$. G.M.T. $6^h 39^m 40^s$;
to α Centauri $75^{\circ} 36'$. G.M.T. $6^h 44^m 25^s$;
to Altair $35^{\circ} 0'$. G.M.T. $6^h 50^m 44^s$.

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